



Bird Checklist



Pinyon Jay

Bird Watching at City of Rocks

While rock climbing and viewing the impressive geological formations may be the draw for many to City of Rocks, the reserve is host to all types of recreational opportunities. Within the 14,407 acre reserve, various habitats provide homes for a diverse population of birds that occur annually. To see the most species (163 total), be sure to visit all areas within the checklist range. The range includes City of Rocks as well as the area south of Almo-Elba Divide (including Cache Peak), north of the Utah state line, east of Junction Valley Road, and west of the Jim Sage Mountain crest. Birding hotspots within this range include: Indian Grove, Circle

Creek, and aspen groves near Window Rock and Bath Rock. Some birds, such as the White-throated Swift and Virginia’s Warbler, are rarely found outside of the reserve within the range of the checklist. While others, such as the Sandhill Crane, Bank Swallow, and House Sparrow, are rarely found within the reserve. For the greatest diversity in sightings, include the following habitats in your search: pinyon-juniper- mahogany forest, aspen-riparian areas, sagebrush flats, and spruce-fir-pine forest above 7,000 feet.

Spring migration peaks in May and early June. By mid-August, fall migrants are visible. Despite harsh winter conditions some species remain at City of Rocks. Many of those species are difficult to find in

the U.S. and therefore are of interest to birders. Possible winter species include: Bohemian Waxwing, Snow Bunting and Black Rosy Finch.

Rare and unusual sightings by visitors are important additions to reserve resource management records. Report any unusual bird sightings at the visitor center or write to: City of Rocks National Reserve, P.O. Box 169, Almo, ID 83312, (208) 824-5519.

Principle Contributors Include: Charles Trost, Michael Britten, Wallace Keck, Rick Taylor, Ryan Peck and Don Simons. Updated August 2002.

Abundance and Season Codes	Abundance	Codes	Season	Codes
	C	Common – almost always seen	Sp	Spring (March-early June)
	F	Fairly Common – regularly seen, usually in small numbers	S	Summer (early June-late August)
	U	Uncommon – difficult to find, often overlooked	F	Fall (late August-November)
	R	Rare – few sightings on record	W	Winter (November-March)
	X	Expected – no confirmation		

Checklist

Species	SP	S	F	W	Species	SP	S	F	W
<u>Pelican to Wigeon</u>					<u>Ferruginous Hawk</u>	R	R	R	R
__ American White Pelican	R				__ Rough-legged Hawk	U		U	F
__ Great Blue Heron	R				__ Golden Eagle	U	U	U	U
__ Canada Goose	R				__ American Kestrel	C	C	C	C
__ Green-winged Teal	R				__ Prairie Falcon	U	U	U	U
__ Mallard	U	U	U		__ Merlin	U	U	U	R
__ Cinnamon Teal	U	X							
__ Northern Shoveler	R				<u>Partridge to Quail</u>				
__ Gadwall	R				__ Gray Partridge	U	U	U	U
__ American Wigeon	R				__ Ring-necked Pheasant	F	F	F	F
					__ Blue Grouse	U	U	U	U
<u>Vultures to Falcons</u>					__ Ruffed Grouse	X	R	X	X
__ Turkey Vulture	F	C	F		__ Greater Sage Grouse	U	U	U	U
__ Bald Eagle	U		U	U	__ Wild Turkey	U	U	U	U
__ Northern Harrier	F	F	F	F	__ California Quail	R	R	X	X
__ Sharp-shinned Hawk	U	U	X	X					
__ Cooper’s Hawk	U	U	X	X	<u>Rails to Gulls</u>				
__ Northern Goshawk	U	U	X	X	__ Virginia Rail	R			
__ Swainson’s Hawk	F	F	U		__ Sora	R			
__ Red-tailed Hawk	C	C	C	F	__ American Coot	R			

Checklist									
Species	SP	S	F	W	Species	SP	S	F	W
<u>Rails to Gulls (continued)</u>					<u>Rock Wren</u>	F	F	U	U
<u>Sandhill Crane</u>	U	U			<u>Canyon Wren</u>	X	R	X	R
<u>Killdeer</u>	F	F			<u>House Wren</u>	C	C	U	
<u>Spotted Sandpiper</u>	R	R			<u>Winter Wren</u>				R
<u>Long-billed Curlew</u>	U	U			<u>Golden-crowned Kinglet</u>	F	F	F	F
<u>Common Snipe</u>	U	F	U		<u>Ruby-crowned Kinglet</u>	F	F	F	F
<u>Wilson’s Phalarope</u>	U	U			<u>Blue-gray Gnatcatcher</u>	R	R		
<u>Ring-billed Gull</u>	R	R			<u>Thrushes to Starling</u>				
<u>California Gull</u>	R	R			<u>Mountain Bluebird</u>	C	C	F	U
<u>Doves to Owls</u>					<u>Western Bluebird</u>	F	F	F	U
<u>Rock Dove</u>	C	C	C	C	<u>Townsend’s Solitaire</u>	F	F	F	F
<u>Mourning Dove</u>	C	C	C	U	<u>Swainson’s Thrush</u>	U	U		
<u>Western Screech - Owl</u>	U	U	U	U	<u>Hermit Thrush</u>	F	F		
<u>Great Horned Owl</u>	F	F	F	F	<u>American Robin</u>	C	C	C	C
<u>Burrowing Owl</u>	U	U	U	U	<u>Sage Thrasher</u>	F	C	F	
<u>Long-eared Owl</u>	U	X	X	X	<u>Bohemian Waxwing</u>				R
<u>Short-eared Owl</u>	X	X	X	X	<u>Cedar Waxwing</u>	F	U	U	U
<u>Northern Saw-whet Owl</u>	X	X	X	R	<u>Northern Shrike</u>				U
<u>Northern Pygmy-Owl</u>	X	X	X	R	<u>Loggerhead Shrike</u>	U	U	X	X
					<u>European Starling</u>	C	C	C	C
<u>Nighthawk to Hummingbirds</u>					<u>Vireos to Warbler</u>				
<u>Common Nighthawk</u>	F	F			<u>Cassin’s Vireo</u>	U	U		
<u>Common Poorwill</u>	F	F			<u>Warbling Vireo</u>	U	U		
<u>White-throated Swift</u>	F	F			<u>Orange-crowned Warbler</u>	F	F		
<u>Black-chinned Hummingbird</u>	F	F			<u>Virginia’s Warbler</u>	U	U		
<u>Rufous Hummingbird</u>		F	F		<u>Yellow Warbler</u>	F	F	U	
<u>Calliope Hummingbird</u>	R	R			<u>Chestnut - sided Warbler</u>	U	X	X	
<u>Broad-tailed Hummingbird</u>	U	U			<u>Yellow-rumped Warbler</u>	F	F	F	
<u>Kingfisher to Woodpeckers</u>					<u>Black - throated Gray Warbler</u>	U	X	X	
<u>Belted Kingfisher</u>	U	U	U	U	<u>MacGillivray’s Warbler</u>	U	U		
<u>Red- naped Sapsucker</u>	F	F			<u>Common Yellowthroat</u>	R	R		
<u>Downy Woodpecker</u>	F	F	F	F	<u>Wilson’s Warbler</u>	U	U		
<u>Hairy Woodpecker</u>	F	F	F	F	<u>Yellow-b reasted Chat</u>	R	R		
<u>Northern Flicker</u>	C	C	C	C	<u>Olive Warbler</u>	R			
<u>Lewis’s Woodpecker</u>	U				<u>Tanager to Towhees</u>				
<u>Flycatchers</u>					<u>Western Tanager</u>	U	U		
<u>Olive-sided Flycatcher</u>	X	X			<u>Black-headed Grosbeak</u>	U	U		
<u>Western Wood- Pewee</u>	F	F			<u>Lazuli Bunting</u>	F	F		
<u>Willow Flycatcher</u>	U	U			<u>Green-tailed Towhee</u>	F	C		
<u>Hammond’s Flycatcher</u>	U	U			<u>Spotted Towhee</u>	F	U	U	U
<u>Dusky Flycatcher</u>	U	U			<u>Sparrows to Bunting</u>				
<u>Gray Flycatcher</u>	F	F			<u>American Tree Sparrow</u>				U
<u>Cordilleran Flycatcher</u>	U	U			<u>Chipping Sparrow</u>	C	C		
<u>Say’s Phoebe</u>	U	U	R		<u>Brewer’s Sparrow</u>	C	C		
<u>Ash-throated Flycatcher</u>	R	R	R		<u>Vesper Sparrow</u>	C	C		
<u>Western Kingbird</u>	U	F			<u>Lark Sparrow</u>	R	R		
<u>Eastern Kingbird</u>	U	U			<u>Sage Sparrow</u>	U	X	X	X
<u>Lark to Swallows</u>					<u>Savannah Sparrow</u>	U	U		
<u>Horned Lark</u>	C	C	C	C	<u>Fox Sparrow</u>	R	R		
<u>Tree Swallow</u>	U	U			<u>Song Sparrow</u>	F	F	F	F
<u>Violet-green Swallow</u>	C	C	F		<u>White -crowned Sparrow</u>	U	U	U	U
<u>Northern Rough-winged Swallow</u>	C	C	C		<u>Harris’s Sparrow</u>				R
<u>Bank Swallow</u>	F	F			<u>Dark-eyed Junco</u>	C	F	C	C
<u>Cliff Swallow</u>	C	C			<u>Snow Bunting</u>				R
<u>Barn Swallow</u>	F	F			<u>Bobolink to House Sparrow</u>				
<u>Corvids</u>					<u>Bobolink</u>	R			
<u>Steller’s Jay</u>	U	U	U	U	<u>Red-winged Blackbird</u>	C	C	C	C
<u>Western Scrub-Jay</u>	F	F	F	F	<u>Western Meadowlark</u>	C	C	C	U
<u>Pinyon Jay</u>	U	U	U	U	<u>Yellow- headed Blackbird</u>	U	U		
<u>Clark’s Nutcracker</u>	C	C	C	C	<u>Brewer’s Blackbird</u>	F	C	F	U
<u>Black-billed Magpie</u>	C	C	C	C	<u>Brown-headed Cowbird</u>	U	U		
<u>American Crow</u>	X	X	R	R	<u>Bullock’s Oriole</u>	U	U		
<u>Common Raven</u>	C	C	C	C	<u>Scott’s Oriole</u>		R		
<u>Chickadees to Gnatcatcher</u>					<u>Black Rosy Finch</u>	R	R	R	R
<u>Black-capped Chickadee</u>	F	F	F	F	<u>Cassin’s Finch</u>	C	C	C	F
<u>Mountain Chickadee</u>	C	C	C	C	<u>House Finch</u>	U	U	U	F
<u>Juniper Titmouse</u>	X	R	X	X	<u>Red Crossbill</u>	F	F	F	F
<u>Bushtit</u>	U	U	U	X	<u>Pine Siskin</u>	F	F	F	F
<u>Red-breasted Nuthatch</u>	F	F	F	F	<u>American Goldfinch</u>	C	C	C	C
<u>White-breasted Nuthatch</u>	R	R	R	R	<u>Evening Grosbeak</u>	R	R	X	X
<u>Brown Creeper</u>	U	U	U	U	<u>House Sparrow</u>	C	C	C	C